

Meeting Minutes:
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
05-02-22

Opening:

The May 2, 2022 General Meeting of the HCRTA, was held at the Hillsboro City Schools Administrative Offices. The meeting was attended by 21 members and 2 guests. President Faust called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and opened with welcoming remarks, recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance”, the singing of “God Bless America”, introduction of guest, and an acknowledgement of Hillsboro City Schools and Superintendent Tim Davis, thanking him for the use of the facility. Following an invocation, attendees enjoyed a satisfying self-served KFC Fill-up Meal, completed with cookies provided by Mr. Faust.

Program:

Following the meal, President Faust introduced guest speakers Mike Secrest of Blanchester and Rick Riley from Fairfield, Ohio. Their topic was Home Defense Training and Protecting Your Family. Mr. Secrest and Mr. Riley made pointed out that, given the time that it necessarily takes for law-enforcement to respond to a call, you and the security measures you have in place are your family’s first line of defense. The presenters discussed constructing your home security in layers, each layer making it more difficult and more inconvenient for intruders. Layer one includes security precautions such as making home entry more difficult (locking mechanisms on main and secondary doors, gates, garage doors, and windows), wise landscaping, and precautionary lighting. Another layer would encompass video surveillance, security monitoring, and guard animals, plus signage that advertises the presence of such (whether they exist or not). The final layer includes strategies for fending-off an invasion once entry is gained (including strategies for standing your ground and using the term “Home Invasion” when calling for police).

Business Meeting:

The business meeting included reports from Treasurer Doris Pulse, and Secretary Kevin Black. Among other items, Mrs. Pulse reported collection of \$390 for the service Project and \$410 for the scholarship funds. Mr. Black drew attention to the new notebooks organizing some of HCRTA’s archival documents. Kathy Levo moved that the reports be approved and Joyce Baker seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous vote.

President Faust reported on a donation of 60 “Sweats for Vets” by Bulls-eye screen printing delivered to the Georgetown Veterans Home by Mr. Faust. President Faust also stated that he had completed the annual ORTA Report which recorded our local membership at 61, which included 20 ORTA lifetime members. During the report there was mention of the terms of the COLA that STRS would be implementing for qualified members beginning with the July 1, 2022 check. This is a one-time 3% COLA, implemented on the anniversary of an eligible individual’s retirement. It is not an additional 3% each year, but the new amount will remain in place each year, with STRS to review the possibility of additional COLAS for future years. Finally, Mr. Faust reminded members that the STRS Board Elections end today and encouraged members to submit their votes by the end of the day if they had not already done so.

Leone Bihl reported the following deaths in the Necrology Report: Earl Burnett, former Hillsboro City Schools teacher and counselor, Jim VanDerVort, former Great Oaks instructor, Marylin Tracey, former elementary teacher at Fayetteville-Perry Local Schools, and Verla Hodson, former Hillsboro City Schools employee.

Scholarship Chairperson, Mary Black reported that she has one scholarship applicant to date.

New Business:

The next General Meeting will be held August 1st at the Hillsboro Church of Christ. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be at the Frisch’s Restaurant in Hillsboro at 9:30 on the July 5th.

Following discussion of potential future meeting program topics and service projects the meeting was adjourned.